

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 7 shows a second embodiment of the last stage of the control circuit; [[and]]

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 8 shows a timing diagram of voltages characteristic of the circuit of Fig. 1 controlled by the control circuit of Fig. 7[[]]; and

Please add the following new paragraph after the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 13:

Fig. 9 shows a timing diagram illustrating an example of a control signal transition that is controlled such that the signal has an intermediate stage of zero slope during the transition.